MARVEL COMICS
JUN
#10
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GONZALEZ
FERNANDEZ
PEPOY
MAVERICK
COLD WAR
DIRECT EDITION
01011
$1.99 US $2.80 CAN

Beethoven born
(the composer, not the dog)

Fire extinguisher invented
(Cro-Magnons everywhere celebrate)

THE MOST GIGANTIC GOOF-UPS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Rome built
(not in one day, silly)

Declaration of Independence
(and John Hancock becomes a star)

1171
The Tower of Pisa built. 1172: It starts to lean. 1172½: a bunch of builders look for new jobs

1492
Christopher Columbus discovers America (then gets his eyes checked—he was aiming for China, y'know)

32,000 BC
Cro-Magnon man builds first indoor fire (33,714 years before the fire extinguisher gets invented)

1751
The Liberty Bell made by some English dude, then cracks the first time it's rung (obviously the British are tip-top at tea, pretty crummy at smelting)

Hieroglyphics debut in Egypt

Chocolate chip born
(kids everywhere celebrate)

Invasion: Pimpol
(don't mess with T-Rex)

1998 CHIPS AHOY! FORGETS THE CHIPS!

1,000 bags of Chips Ahoy! chocolate chip cookies got out with no chips. And instead of re-naming them something lame like "Ahoys," we're offering a $1,000 reward for every chipless bag you find (that's a buck for every missing chip). Yep, this just may be the sweetest mistake ever made.

www.chipsahoy.com

*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Open to U.S. residents. Must redeem winning game pieces for reward. Prizes must be claimed by June 15, 1998. 1,000 winners in all. For free entry method and rules, see marked packs. *1,000 chips in 18oz or larger bags.* ©1998 Nabisco, Inc

LET'S MEET

MAVERICK

Clandestine warfare is a wildly unpredictable and dangerous game. For **Maverick,** it is a way of life.

A master in the deadly art of espionage, his unique mutant physiology and state-of-the-art weapons arsenal have become his stock-in-trade.

Currently suffering the effects of a terminal illness which is slowly consuming his body from within, Maverick is living proof that one's control over one's destiny is somewhat limited at best.

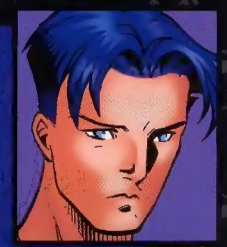
Haunted by his past. Hunted by his foes. Betrayed by his own body. In many ways, Maverick has good reason to fear life more than he does death.

Yet still he clings to life, all the while struggling to fill the little time he has left with some sense of purpose. Especially now that he has finally found a family to call his own— a testament to the fact that the ties that bind are often forged in the face of great adversity.

MAVERICK

A former CIA operative working for Team-X, David North became a mercenary for hire who goes by the moniker Maverick. Since then, he has specialized in the dirty jobs that no one else wants to do yet desperately need doing, using his mutant power to absorb and rechannel kinetic impact at will. Infected with the Legacy Virus and faced with an uncertain future, Maverick has no way of knowing what will kill him first: his many enemies... or his own body.

BRIAN JOHNSON



At sixteen, Brian Johnson learned he was a mutant and that he had contracted the Legacy Virus. Maverick arranged for Brian and his family to be relocated after anti-mutant violence destroyed their home. Though Brian possesses the ability to emit electrically-charged bursts of energy, his control over these powers is becoming increasingly erratic as his condition worsens.

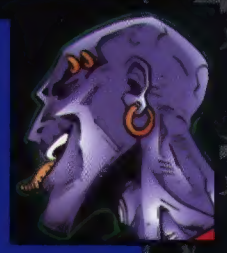
IVAN PUSHKIN

The powerful head of the Russian mafia, Pushkin's ruthless and unmerciful tactics have earned him the name Ivan the Terrible. Pushkin frequently enlists his bodyguards/enforcers, Hammer and Sickle, to keep his enemies in line. Pushkin is constantly trying to expand his territory, and intends for nothing to get in his way.

HAMMER

Enlisted as a teenager by Ivan Pushkin to join his criminal organization, Boris Lubov goes by the code name of Hammer, a name matched by the deadly weapon that he carries. Along with Sickle, he serves as body-guard and errand boy to Pushkin. Hammer and Sickle are devoted to him, and their loyalty knows no bounds.

SICKLE



Serving as Ivan Pushkin's personal bodyguard, and usually working in conjunction with his partner, Hammer, Sickle (a.k.a. Nikolai Vronsky) literally uses an energized sickle to slice at his enemies.

PREVIOUSLY IN

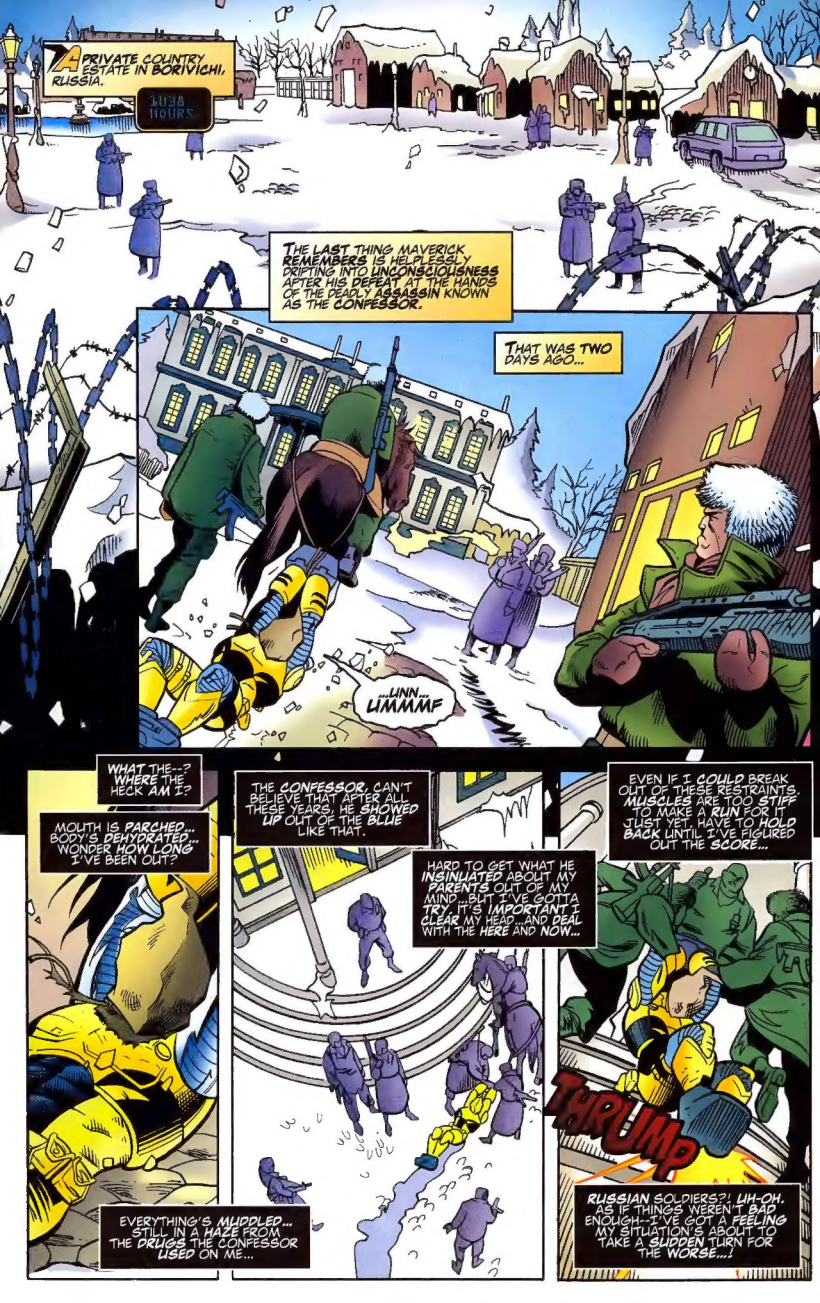
MAVERICK

Maverick and the Confessor had an all-out war, which ended in Maverick's defeat.

As he dealt his final blow, the Confessor implied to Maverick that his parents, before their deaths, had been affiliated with the Nazi Party.

Meanwhile, Brian Johnson argued with Doc Keller; when he returned to the lab to apologize, he found Doc at the mercy of a group of mutant-hating thugs. Now, Brian risks taking action, revealing his mutant powers in public, and chancing exposure of his new identity.

Design by COMICRAFT's John Marasigan


A PRIVATE COUNTRY ESTATE IN BORIVICHI, RUSSIA.
0038 HOURS
THE LAST THING MAVERICK REMEMBERS IS HELPLESSLY DRIFTING INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AFTER HIS DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE DEADLY ASSASSIN KNOWN AS THE CONFESSOR.
THAT WAS TWO DAYS AGO...
...UNN... UMMMF
WHAT THE--? WHERE THE HECK AM I?
MOUTH IS PARCHED... BODY'S DEHYDRATED... WONDER HOW LONG I'VE BEEN OUT?
EVERYTHING'S MUDDLED... STILL IN A HAZE FROM THE DRUGS THE CONFESSOR USED ON ME...
THE CONFESSOR. CAN'T BELIEVE THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HE SHOVED UP OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT.
HARD TO GET WHAT HE INSINUATED ABOUT MY PARENTS OUT OF MY MIND...BUT I'VE GOTTA TRY. IT'S IMPORTANT I CLEAR MY HEAD...AND DEAL WITH THE HERE AND NOW...
EVEN IF I COULD BREAK OUT OF THESE RESTRAINTS, MUSCLES ARE TOO STIFF TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT JUST YET. HAVE TO HOLD BACK UNTIL I'VE FIGURED OUT THE SCORE...
THRUMP
RUSSIAN SOLDIERS?! UH-OH. AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH. I'VE GOT A FEELING MY SITUATION'S ABOUT TO TAKE A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE...!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
RED REIGN
PART 1
COLD FRONTS
JORGE GONZALEZ
WRITER
LEO FERNANDEZ
PENCILER
RODRICK PEPON
INKER
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
& VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY
LETTERS
KEVIN SOMERS
COLORIST
FRANK PITTRESSE
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF
HIS BIRTH-GIVEN NAME IS IVAN PUSHKIN, BUT THOSE WHO HAVE HAD DEALINGS WITH HIM KNOW HIM BETTER AS IVAN THE TERRIBLE--
--A RUTHLESS MOBSTER RENOWNED FOR HIS UNSCRUPULOUS METHODS.
THE PAIR OF GYPSIES AT HIS SIDE ARE HAMMER AND SICKLE, BOTH ARE DEVOUTLY LOYAL TO THEIR LONGTIME LORD AND MASTER.
PUSHKIN?! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU WERE BEHIND THIS--! WHERE'S THE CONFESSOR?
HE FULFILLED HIS CONTRACT. THERE WAS NO REASON FOR HIM TO STAY. JUST AS THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO STRUGGLE. YOU'RE IN MY DOMAIN NOW.
AND I CAN ASSURE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE WOULD BE QUITE FUTILE.
IF YOU DON'T MIND-- I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT.
I SEE YOUR TASTE IN LACKEYS HASN'T IMPROVED ANY...

MAVERICK™ Vol. 1, No. 10, June, 1998. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Joseph Calamari, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Shirrel Rhoades, Executive VP, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 Published monthly. Copyright © 1998 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.99 per copy in the U.S. and $2.80 in Canada, GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MAVERICK (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. Printed in the U.S.A.

I'M SURPRISED YOU EVEN BOTHERED TO FREE SICKLE. I DIDN'T FIGURE HE'D BE ANY GOOD TO YOU MAIMED.
YOU ARROGANT LITTLE--
NIKOLAI-- DON'T--!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME--!
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU SLOBBERING FREAK--!
RRRR
;GURGLE;
ULULRRKK--!
I SAID-- --THAT-- --IS--
URGH!
THAT IS ENOUGH, SICKLE. OUR GUEST REQUIRES SPECIAL HANDLING-- WHICH I SHALL ATTEND TO PERSONALLY.
AAAK--!

FIX UP THE MIX-UP

WITH THESE **FREE** STONE-AGE SCRAMBLERS!

FRED AND BARNEY'S *FUTURE* IS IN *YOUR HANDS!*

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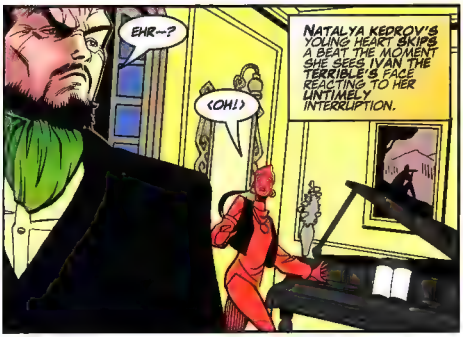
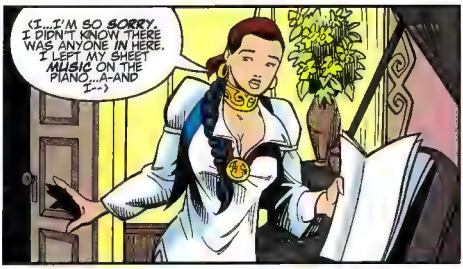
AAAAK--!
WHAM!
--ENOUGH!
S-SORRY, MASTER...
LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE YOUR CONTROL OVER THE HIRED HELP ISN'T AS ABSOLUTE AS YOU'D CARE TO BELIEVE, PUSHKIN.
YOU MUST BE SLIPPING.
I ADVISE YOU TO WATCH YOUR TONGUE, MAVERICK--OR I WILL GLADLY ARRANGE TO HAVE IT CUT OFF.
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SICKLE WOULD DELIGHT IN DOING THE HONORS...
MUCH BETTER, PERHAPS. YOUR DISAGREEABLE BEHAVIOR WILL IMPROVE ONCE I CLEAR THE ROOM OF UNNECESSARY DISTRACTIONS.
SHH

© 1997 Mars Inc.

AT PUSHKIN'S COMMAND, HE IS LEFT ALONE WITH HIS PRISONER.
OKAY. NOW THAT WE'RE RID OF THE RIFFRAFF, LET'S GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS. WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, PUSHKIN? WHY AM I HERE?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? YOUR MEDDLESOME ANTICS HAVE BECOME TIRESOME. AND THAT MAKES YOU EXPENDABLE.
MEDDLESOME? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEEPS KIDNAPPING ME, REMEMBER?
SO CUT THE BULL. IF YOU'D REALLY WANTED ME DEAD, YOU'D HAVE ALREADY DONE IT.
ON THE CONTRARY, ON THAT POINT YOU'RE VERY MUCH MISTAKEN. I DO WISH YOU DEAD. MORE THAN EVER.
FLIK
BUT GRANTING YOU A SPEEDY DEATH WOULD DEPRIVE ME OF THE PLEASURE OF SOMEDAY SEEING YOU COWER AT MY FEET LIKE AN OBEDIENT DOG.
UNTIL THAT DAY COMES, I'M GOING TO CONTENT MYSELF BY INDULGING IN SOME GOOD OLD FASHIONED SADISM AT YOUR EXPENSE.
YOU SEE--I INTEND TO BREAK YOU.
AGAIN.
ONLY THIS TIME, THE RESULTS WILL BE QUITE PERMANENT.
AND THEN WHAT? AM I TO TAKE PART IN ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR GRANDIOSE SCHEMES?
WHAT'S THE GAME PLAN THIS GO-AROUND? SMUGGLING? ARMS DEALING? ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT?

MY PLANS DO NOT CONCERN YOU.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY, THEY ARE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE, AND I CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE YOUR CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN MY AFFAIRS.
IN OTHER WORDS--HE'S UP TO SOMETHING, SOMETHING BIG, AND HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE I DON'T GET IN HIS WAY.


EHR--?
(OH!)
NATALYA KEDROV'S YOUNG HEART SKIPS A BEAT THE MOMENT SHE SEES IVAN THE TERRIBLE'S FACE REACTING TO HER UNTIMELY INTERRUPTION.


(I...I'M SO SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANYONE IN HERE. I LEFT MY SHEET MUSIC ON THE PIANO...A-AND I--)

(SWEET NATALYA... OF ALL MY MISTRESSES, YOU WERE ALWAYS THE MOST PRECOCIOUS...)
(IVAN--YOU'RE HURTING ME--!)

(INSOLENT WENCH! YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT I DO NOT KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND...)
AARGGH!!
KRUSH
SNRAPT

(P-PLEASE, MASTER! -SOB- MERCY! I BESEECH YOU....)
(THAT'S RIGHT, DEAR. KNEEL BEFORE ME...AND GIVE YOUR THANKS THAT I AM IN A LENIENT AND FORGIVING MOOD...)
THWAK
(NOW LEAVE US-- AND MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE NOT DISTURBED AGAIN!)
(LET ME HELP YOU....)
(YOU CAN CHOKE ON YOUR CHARITY, STRANGER! I WON'T BE SULLIED BY YOUR TOUCH)
(THAT PRIVILEGE IS RESERVED FOR THE MASTER!)
PTUI
SLAM
YOU SEE? EVEN THOSE I AM FORCED TO DISCIPLINE REMAIN SUBSERVIENT TO ME.
AS YOU WILL SOON BE AS WELL.
I MUST CONFESS... KNOWING THAT YOU POSSESS SUCH A HIGH THRESHOLD FOR PAIN HAS MADE YOU MUCH MORE...INTERESTING TO ME.

THE EXPERTS WOULD HAVE AGREED THAT IF YOU TRIED TO DO HALF THE STUFF IN 1080° SNOWBOARDING ON NINTENDO® 64 FOR REAL, YOU WOULDN'T BE AROUND TO BRAG ABOUT IT.

YOU'VE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL IN YOUR LIFETIME. ENOUGH TO DESTROY A LESSER MAN.
YET YOU STILL PERSIST IN CONFOUNDING THE ODDS WITH YOUR CONTINUED SURVIVAL. IT'S A TRAIT WHICH I ADMIRE.
I'M STUBBORN THAT WAY. I NEVER GIVE UP, AND I'M ALWAYS GOOD FOR A CHALLENGE.

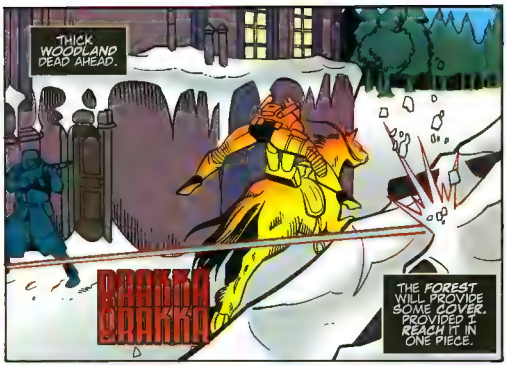
WE'LL SEE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT AFTER YOU'VE SPENT A FEW WEEKS IN THE COOLER...

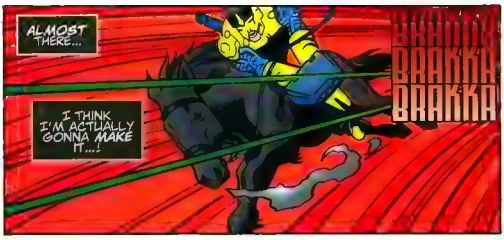
SHORTLY...
IF I'M GONNA MAKE A BREAK FOR IT--THIS MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE.

TOO BAD THESE INHIBITOR SHACKLES ARE STILL DAMPENING MY POWERS...

I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO!
KWA-THWAMM
AAAKKT-!
OOOOOMF!
WHAK
<SEIZE HIM!>
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
FWHAMM


THICK WOODLAND DEAD AHEAD.
BRAKKA BRAKKA
THE FOREST WILL PROVIDE SOME COVER. PROVIDED I REACH IT IN ONE PIECE.


ALMOST THERE...
I THINK I'M ACTUALLY GONNA MAKE IT...!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

END OF THE LINE, MAVERICK!
SURRENDER, NOW, OR THE BOY DIES.
YOU WOULDN'T...!

DON'T LET YOUR HATRED FOR ME CLOUD YOUR JUDGMENT, CHRISTOPH.
I HAVE NO COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT KILLING THE CHILD.
YOU WIN. LET THE BOY GO.
THWAK
WHUDT
YOU'RE A REAL PIECE OF SLIME, PUSHKIN. THIS ISN'T OVER. NOT BY A LONG SHOT!
DEFIANT TO THE END.
BUT I PROMISE YOU--YOU HAVE INCONVENIENCED ME FOR THE LAST TIME!
HUUUMMF--!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE APRIL 8

SPIDER-MAN: THE MANGA — $12

The saga of the SPIDER-MAN impostor continues, as YU KOMORI is beaten by an unexpected opponent! By RYOICHI IKEGAMI!

STAR TREK: THE UNTOLD VOYAGES — $4.95

While KIRK, SPOCK and McCOY are away from the ENTERPRISE, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SULU takes charge on a mission that could change the galaxy forever! By GLENN GREENBERG and MICHAEL COLLINS!

ALPHA FLIGHT — $11

Back by popular demand! Those ever-popular champions of the Microverse! But will they be enough to rescue ALPHA from the dreaded BARON ZEBEK? By STEVEN T. SEAGLE and ROGER CRUZ!

FURY/AGENT 13 — $1.25

On sale at last! SHARON CARTER is determined to prove that NICK FURY is still alive... so she can have the honor of killing him herself. By TERRY KAVANAGH and RAMON BERNADO!

IRON MAN — $5

If IRON MAN can't stop the all-new FIREBRAND, an entire island could go up in flames -- with thousands of innocent lives at stake! By KURT BUSIEK and SEAN CHEN!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY — $2.25

The final journey! HANNIBAL KING, vampire detective, faces a horde of undead killers! By MARV WOLFMAN and KARL KERSCHL!

MARVEL UNIVERSE — $1

An untold tale of the greatest heroes of World War II: the awesome INVADERS as they take on that nasty Nazi, BARON STRUCKER! By ROGER STERN and STEVE EPTING!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN — $4.95

Straight from the pages of WOLVERINE come ROUGHOUSE and BLOODSCREAM -- and they're out to kill PETER PARKER's new alter ego, RICOCHET! By TOM DeFALCO and MIKE DEODATO JR.!

GENERATION X — $3.99

SYNCH must push his powers to the limit when the team's other dimensional adventure brings them face-to-face with a god! By LARRY HAMA and TERRY DODSON!

MARVEL ADVENTURES — $1.50

PROFESSOR XAVIER has been kidnapped by the monstrous MAN-BEAST! Now the X-MEN must battle the ferocious NEW MEN to free their mentor! By RALPH MACCHIO and ANDY KUHN!

MARVEL ANNUAL '98
starring MACHINE MAN & BASTION — $2.98

At last: the full story of BASTION's mind-blowing origin! Featuring everybody's favorite cyborg, CABLE! By MICHAEL HIGGINS, KARL BOLLERS and MARTIN EGELAND!

X-FACTOR — $1.46

The team settles into their new HQ and HAVOK tries to convince MADROX to return to the fold! By HOWARD MACKIE and LEE MODER!

ITEM! Marvel's longest journey is about to reach its end! That's right -- next week marks the publication of the final issue of JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY -- our longest running title! JIM was originally conceived as an anthology book but that all changed in the mid-sixties with the arrival of THOR, who took over as the lead feature! Eventually the mag's name was changed to reflect its popular, hammer-swinging star! Recently, JIM regained its original title, and switched to a rotating lead feature format. The final issue, #521, features HANNIBAL KING, the VAMPIRE DETECTIVE, in the most bone-chilling case of his career! This terrifying tale, written by the character's creator, "Marvelous" MARV WOLFMAN and drawn by KARL "Kolchak" KERSCHL and "Our Pal" AL MILGROM involves a bunch of blood-suckers who want to turn the human race into livestock -- and only Hannibal can stop them! While the mag may have reached its final destination, there just may be *more* journeys into mystery awaiting you in the future!

ITEM! Get ready to explore the MARVEL UNIVERSE, as you've never seen it before! MARVEL UNIVERSE is an all-new monthly comic featuring untold tales about your favorite heroes and villains throughout their long, illustrious histories! The 48-page first issue digs deep into the past, to those distant days of World War II, as CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE HUMAN TORCH, and the SAVAGE SUB-MARINER come up against the sinister BARON STRUCKER! As this story arc progresses, you'll learn for the first time the origins of the evil organization known as HYDRA! Future issues will reveal never-before-told secrets and legends of such characters as the ETERNALS, DR. DRUID, the TWO-GUN KID, the YELLOW CLAW, and the original CITIZEN V! ROGER STERN will be your literary guide through the MARVEL UNIVERSE, and there will be a new artist for each story arc! STEVE EPTING handles the art chores for the first saga, and next up will be MIKE MANLEY drawing the monster-hunting BLOODSTONE! MARVEL UNIVERSE will explore the distant past to the far-flung future -- with the occasional visit to the unpredictable present! The tour of the Marvel Universe begins next week! Sign up now! You know how we hate to start without you!

ITEM! BASTION is one of the greatest threats ever faced by the X-MEN! He's the mutant-hating maniac who launched "Operation Zero Tolerance" -- the purge which almost wiped out the entire mutant race! Last month, you learned Bastion's true identity in the CABLE & MACHINE MAN ANNUAL! Now it's time to learn the B-Man's awesome origin, in the MACHINE MAN & BASTION ANNUAL, out next week. This 48-page spectacular is written by that dashing duo, MICHAEL HIGGINS and KARL BOLLERS, and features incredible art by MARTIN EGELAND and HOWARD M. SHUM! CABLE pops up in this one, too, of course, and when he and Machine Man engage in some heavy metal mayhem, somebody's gonna need some spare parts! It's mutant vs. machine, with Bastion waiting in the wings! Can he possibly top the destructive fury of "Operation: Zero Tolerance"? Sure he can! That was just a *warm-up* for what he's got planned!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!

Let me start with an abject apology! I wanna apologize for the fact that you have to wait so many days between Soapboxes! I know how traumatic the long wait must be for you! You undoubtedly wish there could be a new Soapbox every day – or better still, every hour, but hey, nothing's perfect. Anyway, think how generous Marvel is – we give you an entire comic book adventure to read while you're waiting for the next Soapbox! No other publisher can make that statement! And now, the moment you've been waiting for, as we start our nationwide, televised, invitation-only No-Prize Award Ceremony...

Jeff McLelland of Brownsville, PA, sounds like an investigative reporter! Listen...

"Every Marvel comic says 'Stan Lee Presents' before the opening credits. Are you really that closely associated with the company or is it just a formality?"

Tell you what, Jeff – I've been with Marvel since I was 17! If that doesn't make me "closely associated" I'll double the No-Prize that you've so deservedly earned!

Even in far-off New Zealand, Noah Stackhouse is pining to find out:

"Will Blade get his own comic?"

We're way ahead of ya, ol' buddy! He's already got it! It'll probably reach New Zealand any day now. If it's still not on sale down under by the time you read this, let us know and I'll get the ol' Vampire Hunter himself to go down there and kick some butt!

Here's a doozie from Riverdale, Georgia's own keen-eyed Angie Wayte:

"I recently picked up a video of 'Trial of the Incredible Hulk' and I thought I saw you in the courtroom scene. Was I seeing things or was it really you?"

Yep, it was ol' "I'll-Do-Anything-To-Sneak-Into-A-Scene" Stan! I played the foreman of the jury and, to show you the confidence they had in my acting ability, my role had no speaking lines! But I think you'll agree I nodded my head like a pro!

Now, let's reluctantly wrap things up with our fourth No-Prize Laureate, Euan Spence of Wiltshire, England, who hits us with this plaintive puzzler:

"Why did you stop putting 'The World's Greatest Comics!' atop your covers?"

Two reasons, old bean – 1) We figure everybody knows how good we are by now! And 2) Due to our legendary modesty and innate shyness, we'd hate to have the riotous ranks of Marveldom Assembled think we were boasting!

And so ends another pandemonious plunge into culture and erudition, courtesy of magnanimous Marvel! But let me leave you with this gratuitous little gem of wisdom – You'll never be a Bullpen hero, if your reading skills add up to zero!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Speaking of reading skills how lucky you are to be able to savor every word of our mailing address— "Stan's Soapbox," c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. "The foregoing is suitable for memorizing, quoting or reading aloud!"

Design by Richard Starkings and COMICRAFT

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Heroes Return
- ☐ AVE Avengers
- ☐ CAM Captain America
- ☐ FAN Fantastic Four
- ☐ IRM Iron Man

Marvel Heroes
- ☐ AFT Alpha Flight
- ☐ DDV Daredevil
- ☐ HFH Heroes For Hire
- ☐ ZAR Ka-Zar
- ☐ SIL Silver Surfer
- ☐ INC The Incredible Hulk
- ☐ BLT Thunderbolts

Spider-Man
- ☐ AMZ Amazing Spider-Man
- ☐ PPK Spectacular Spider-Man
- ☐ SSM Sensational Spider-Man
- ☐ SPI Spider-Man

The X-Men
- ☐ CAB Cable
- ☐ DDP Deadpool
- ☐ EXC Excalibur
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
- ☐ FAC X-Factor
- ☐ XFO X-Force
- ☐ MAN X-Man
- ☐ MEN X-Men

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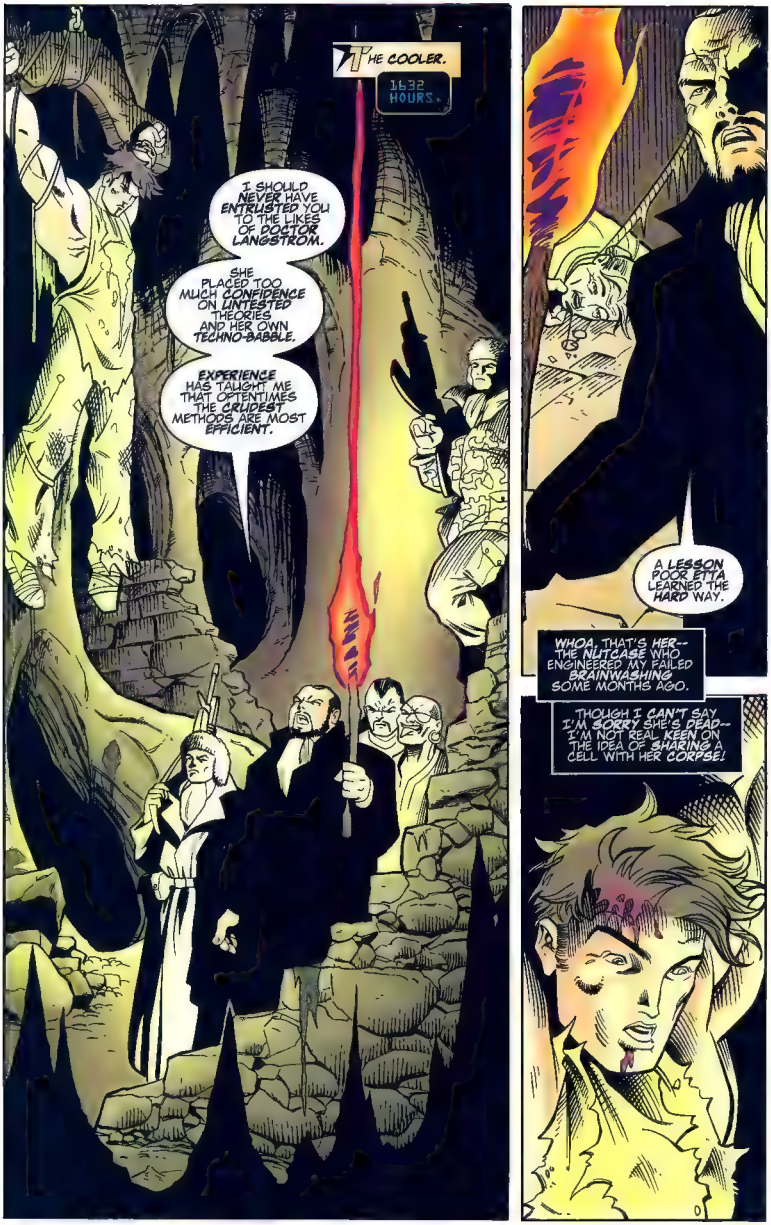
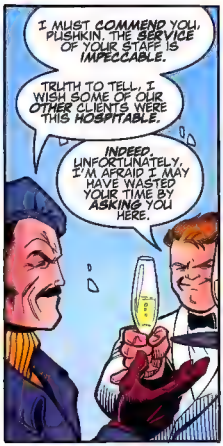

THE COOLER.
1632 HOURS.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE ENTRUSTED YOU TO THE LIKES OF DOCTOR LANGSTROM.
SHE PLACED TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE ON UNTESTED THEORIES AND HER OWN TECHNO-BABBLE.
EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT OFTENTIMES THE CRUDEST METHODS ARE MOST EFFICIENT.
A LESSON POOR ETTA LEARNED THE HARD WAY.
WHOA. THAT'S HER-- THE NUTCASE WHO ENGINEERED MY FAILED BRAINWASHING SOME MONTHS AGO.
THOUGH I CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY SHE'S DEAD-- I'M NOT REAL KEEN ON THE IDEA OF SHARING A CELL WITH HER CORPSE!

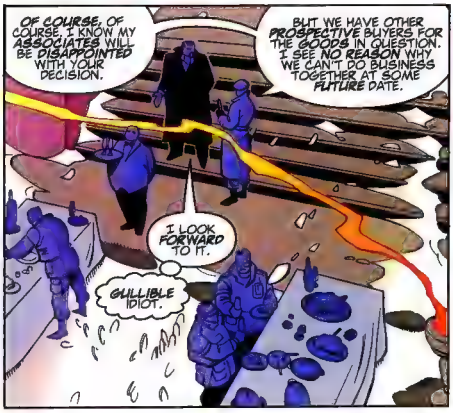
ENJOY YOUR NEW HOME, MAVERICK.
DOS VIDANYA.
FFSSSHH
KLANG
<HOPE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK, COMRADE. IT'LL GET PITCH BLACK IN HERE ONCE THAT TORCH BURNS OUT...>
WHO--?!

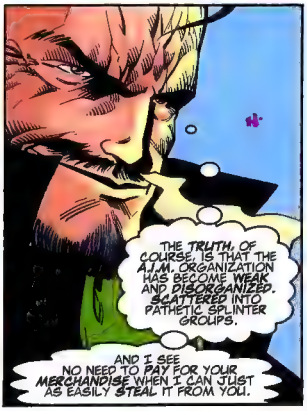
ELSEWHERE IN THE COMPOUND...
I HOPE YOUR JOURNEY WAS A COMFORTABLE ONE, AGENT COLBY.
OH, YES. MOST SATISFACTORY.
GLAD TO HEAR IT. RELAX AND MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE-- I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF HAVING MY CHEFS PREPARE THIS SPECIAL FEAST IN YOUR HONOR.


I MUST COMMEND YOU, PUSHKIN. THE SERVICE OF YOUR STAFF IS IMPECCABLE.
TRUTH TO TELL, I WISH SOME OF OUR OTHER CLIENTS WERE THIS HOSPITABLE.
INDEED. UNFORTUNATELY, I'M AFRAID I MAY HAVE WASTED YOUR TIME BY ASKING YOU HERE.

OH? IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THE PROPOSED CONDITIONS OF OUR CONTRACT?
NOT AT ALL. IT'S JUST THAT... CERTAIN PRIVATE MATTERS HAVE FORCED ME TO BACK OUT OF OUR AGREEMENT.
TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK--MOST OF MY ASSETS ARE CURRENTLY TIED UP IN LITIGATION. AND I JUST CAN'T SPARE THE CAPITAL RIGHT NOW TO ENTER INTO A JOINT VENTURE WITH YOU.

SO PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS MAY CAUSE YOU. I'D HATE FOR ONE ISOLATED INCIDENT TO SOUR RELATIONS BETWEEN US.
IN CASE I HAVEN'T MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR YET--I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE US TO REMAIN ON GOOD TERMS...


OF COURSE. OF COURSE, I KNOW MY ASSOCIATES WILL BE DISAPPOINTED WITH YOUR DECISION.
BUT WE HAVE OTHER PROSPECTIVE BUYERS FOR THE GOODS IN QUESTION. I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T DO BUSINESS TOGETHER AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
GULLIBLE IDIOT.


THE TRUTH, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE A.I.M. ORGANIZATION HAS BECOME WEAK AND DISORGANIZED. SCATTERED INTO PATHETIC SPLINTER GROUPS.
AND I SEE NO NEED TO PAY FOR YOUR MERCHANDISE WHEN I CAN JUST AS EASILY STEAL IT FROM YOU.

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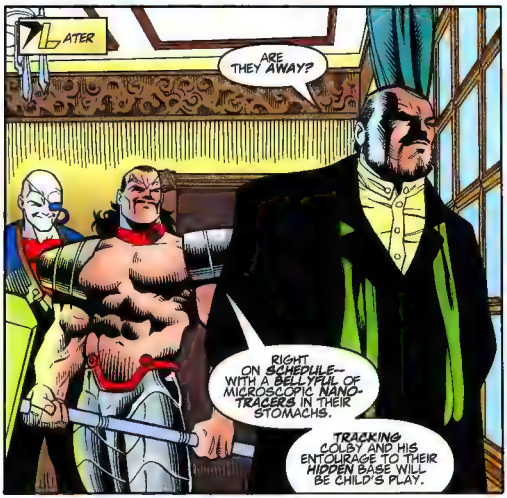
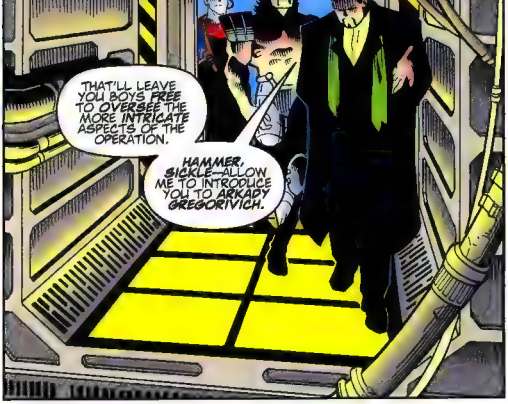
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE OTHER PRESSING MATTERS I MUST ATTEND TO. GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN...


LATER
ARE THEY AWAY?
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE--WITH A BELLYFUL OF MICROSCOPIC NANO-TRACERS IN THEIR STOMACHS.
TRACKING COLBY AND HIS ENTOURAGE TO THEIR HIDDEN BASE WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY.

GOOD. COME ALONG, THEN. THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU BOTH TO MEET. SOMEONE WHO'LL BE ACCOMPANYING YOUR RAIDING PARTY.
AN OUTSIDER?
A FELLOW COUNTRYMAN, BUT YES--AN OUTSIDER.

DUE TO THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE MISSION, I'VE HIRED HIM TO TAKE CARE OF MOST OF THE MUSCLE WORK.


THAT'LL LEAVE YOU BOYS FREE TO OVERSEE THE MORE INTRICATE ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION.
HAMMER, SICKLE--ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ARKADY GREGORIVICH.

"DEADPOOL... MAD WISECRACKS, JUST LIKE ME"

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NEXT ISSUE:

RAISING THE STAKES

PRIVATE MEDICAL CLINIC NEAR KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA.
EARLIER TODAY, BRIAN JOHNSON LEFT HERE IN A HUFF AFTER A BLOW OUT WITH HIS DOCTOR. BUT LATER DOUBLED BACK TO APOLOGIZE.
IRON FIST
HE'S NOT DEAD, IS HE?!
WHEN HE ARRIVED, HE FOUND DOCTOR KELLER AT THE MERCY OF WOULD-BE BURGLARS--A SITUATION WHICH PUTS THE TEEN IN A TERRIBLE QUANDARY.

PERILOUS CHOICES

JORGE GONZALEZ — WRITER
LEO FERNANDEZ — PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY — INKER
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS — ASSISTANT CALLIGRAPHY — LETTERER
KEVIN SOMERS — COLORIST
FRANK PITTARESE — EDITOR
BOB HARRAS — EDITOR IN CHIEF

DOC KELLER--! OHMYGOSH, I RECOGNIZE THOSE GOONS FROM SCHOOL! I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING! BUT WHAT?!
THERE'S ONLY THREE OF 'EM. I COULD PROBABLY TAKE 'EM OUT SOLO WITH MY POWERS...
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT EXPOSING MYSELF AS A MUTANT AND REVEALING MY IDENTITY.
WHADOI DO?!

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Bands

8111 311
7021 702
2251 Aaliyah
2251 AC/DC
2371 Aerosmith
2341 Alice in Chains
2864 Alice Cooper
8673 **Alanis Morissette**
2224 Babyface
2223 Backstreet Boys
2576 Barenaked Ladies
2323 Beck
3444 Big Head Todd/Monsters
2524 Black Sabbath
2526 Blackstreet
2583 Blur
2692 Boyz II Men
2658 Bone Thugs & Harmony
2725 Brandy
2872 Bush
4276 Subsuge
2656 Collective Soul
2683 Counting Crows
2723 Cranberries
2871 The Cure
3262 Danger Danger
3268 Danzig
8283 Dave Matthews Band
3531 Def Leppard
3371 Depeche Mode
3733 Dream Theater
5782 Dru Hill
7433 Duncan Sheik
3871 Duran Duran
2337 Erykah Badu
5832 Everclear
3241 Fetch No More
2771 Fiona Apple
3883 **Fire Pistons**
3872 The Fugees
4482 Ginuwine
4737 Green Day
4861 **Gene H Reed**
4823 GWAR
4262 Haroon
4851 **Hole**
4602 Immature
4831 Indigo Girls
4691 INXS
4781 Iron Maiden
8265 Jamiroquai
5983 Jewel
5831 Judas Priest
5472 **Kiss**
8674 **Korn**
2861 Jon Bon Jovi
8021 L.L.Cool J
7468 Lenny Kravitz
8483 Lit
8484 Live
5871 Luscious Jackson
8231 Madonna
5271 Mariah Carey
8275 **Marilyn Manson**
8285 Matchbox 20
8241 Megadeth
2768 Meredith Brooks
8382 **Metallica**
8443 Monty Mighty Poppins
8854 Muse
8982 **Nelley Cruz**
8284 New Edition
8481 **New Irish Radio**
6411 Nirvana
6535 **No Doubt**
6776 Oasis
6332 Offspring
6773 Ozzy Osbourne
7263 **Pantera**
7331 **Pearl Jam**
7841 Pelican
7715 Phrixis
7784 Prodigy
7698 Puff Daddy
7832 Queensryche
7671 R. Kelly
7235 Radiohead
7442 Rage Against the Machine
7284 Ray J
7963 R. E. M
7252 Red Hot Chili Peppers
7851 Rolling Stones
8284 Sarah McLachlan
7288 Savage Garden
7433 Silverchair
7475 Sister Hazel
7283 Slaughter
7524 Slayer
7821 Smashing Pumpkins
7824 Smashmouth
7747 Spice Girls
7969 Stone Temple Pilots
7843 Sugar Ray
8021 TLC
2794 Toni Braxton
7882 Tool
2367 Tori Amos
8371 **Type O Negative**
8221 U2
8262 Van Halen
8374 Vinuca Salt
8373 Vince Neil
8461 Violent Femmes
2254 Wallflowers
8351 Weezer
8441 White Zombie
9651 Wu Tang Clan
7381 Beverly Hills 90210
7384 Brad Renfro
8283 Brad Pitt
8287 **Claire Danes**
2241 Dean Cain
7292 Devon Sawa
8662 Elijah Wood
3742 Friends
8382 Jared Leto
4373 Jennie Garth
4381 Jennifer Love Hewitt
8983 Jeremy and Jason London
8741 Jonathan Taylor-Thomas
8291 Lacey Chabrik
8292 Lawrence Bros.
8433 Leonardo DiCaprio
8851 **Liv Tyler**
8239 Matthew McConaughy
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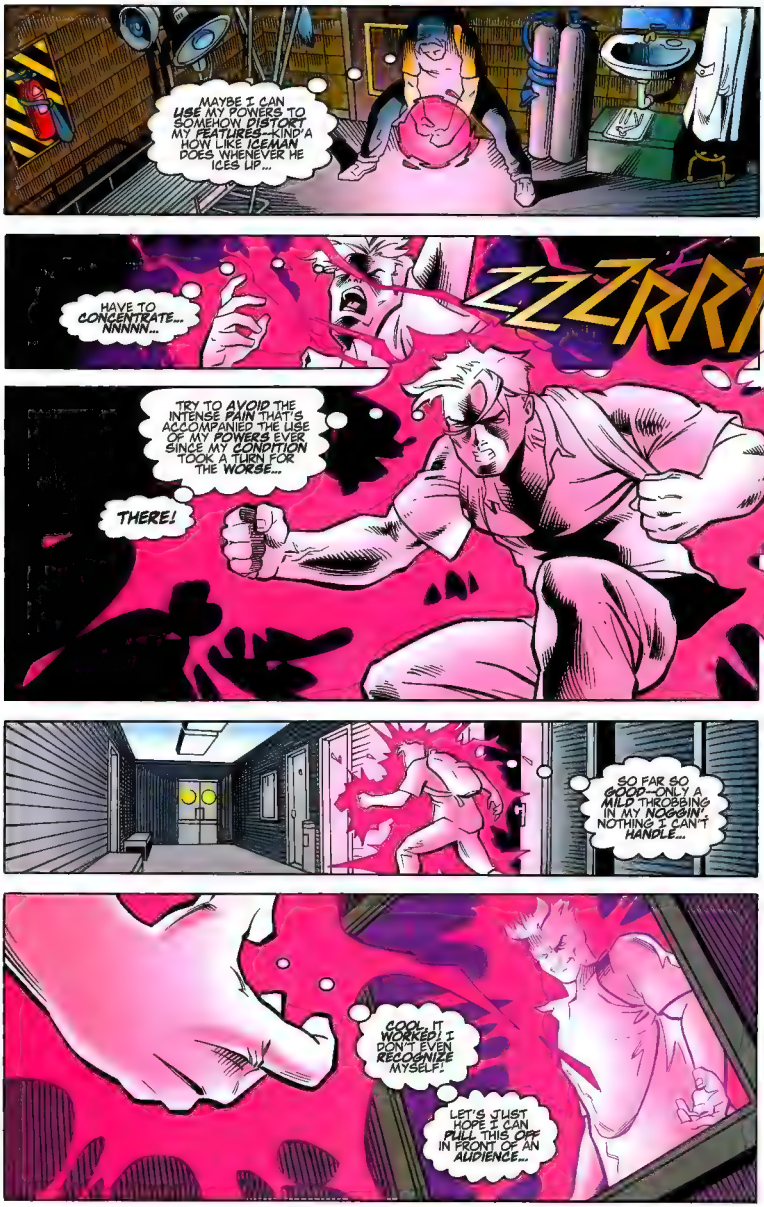
'COURSE HE AIN'T DEAD, YOU IDIOT! BUT HE WON'T BE OUT FOR LONG. LET'S HURRY UP AND GRAB THE PARTY FAVORS SO WE CAN GET OUTTA HERE--!
SMASH
SHRAKK
KRSHT
SMASHY, SMASHY!
YEEE-HAAA!
CAN'T LET THOSE CREEPS GET AWAY WITH THIS! I'VE GOTTA ACT--AND I'VE GOTTA ACT NOW! AND TO BLAZES WITH THE CONSEQUENCES!
THOUGH JUST CUZ I'M TAKING ACTION DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO BE STUPID ABOUT IT.
IF NOTHING ELSE, ALL THOSE SESSIONS IN THE DANGER ROOM WITH BOBBY AND THE OTHER X-MEN TAUGHT ME A BIT ABOUT SELF-RELIANCE.
AND CONTROL.
FRZZT
SLIK


MAYBE I CAN USE MY POWERS TO SOMEHOW DISTORT MY FEATURES--KIND'A HOW LIKE ICEMAN DOES WHENEVER HE ICES UP...
HAVE TO CONCENTRATE... NNNNN...
ZZZRRT
TRY TO AVOID THE INTENSE PAIN THAT'S ACCOMPANIED THE LISE OF MY POWERS EVER SINCE MY CONDITION TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
THERE!
SO FAR SO GOOD--ONLY A MILD THROBBING IN MY NOGGIN', NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE...
COOL--IT WORKED! I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE MYSELF!
LET'S JUST HOPE I CAN PULL THIS OFF IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE...

ANACONDA

is like 'Jaws' on the Amazon River. It's the best creepy, crawly creature feature in years."
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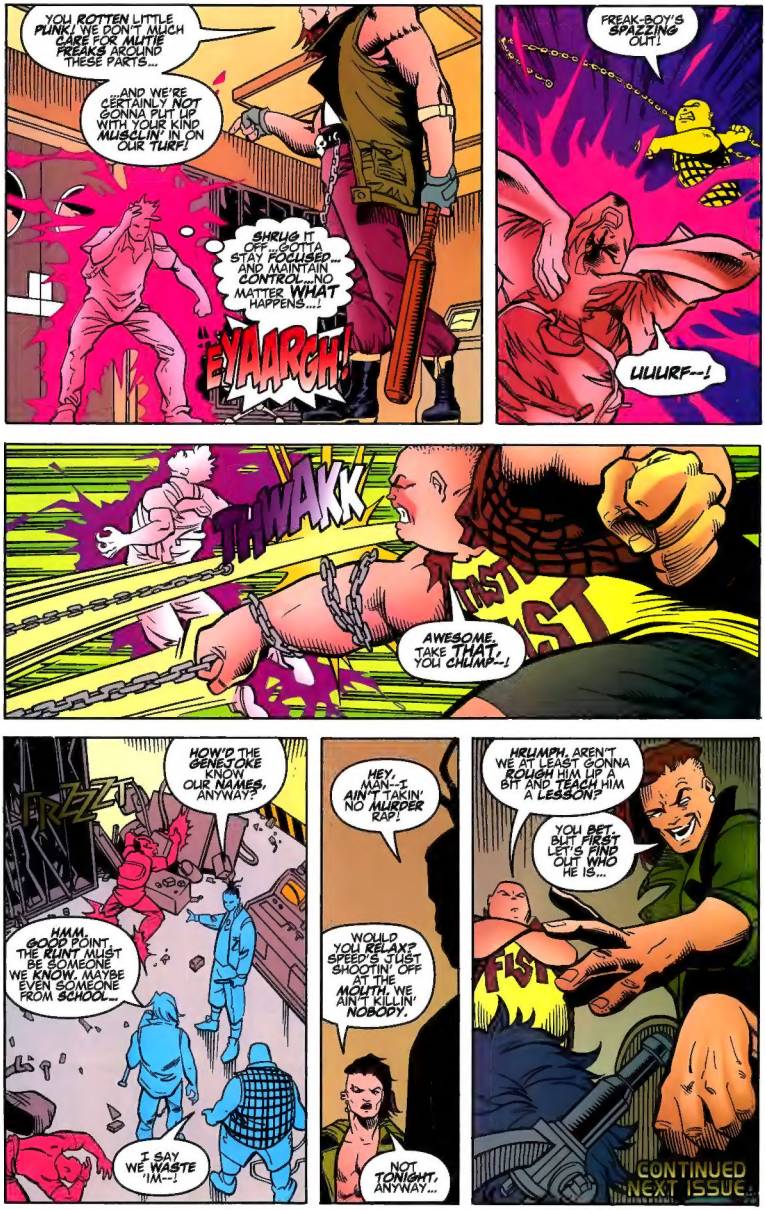
HEY--NO FAIR OF YOU TO HOG ALL THE FUN!
CHILL OUT, SPEED. JUST MAKING SURE THE DOC STAYS OUT FOR THE COUNT, THAT'S ALL.
WE DON'T WANT HIM CALLING THE COPS UNTIL WE'RE LONG GONE FROM--
"HERE GOES NOTHING...!"
FIST
WHUNT

THE JIG'S UP, YOU LOWLIFES! MOVE AWAY FROM THE DOC AND DROP YOUR WEAPONS!
CAREFUL, NOW--DON'T OVERDO IT.
THE MORE I USE MY POWERS THE MORE I RISK LOSING CONTROL OVER THE "STATIC" THAT'S KEEPING THESE GUYS FROM RECOGNIZING ME.
AARKK!
FRZZAKT
BETTER TRY BLUFFING THEM INTO SURRENDERING.
I MEAN IT, MARCUS! GET AWAY FROM HIM--NOW! SAME GOES FOR YOU, DICE!
WHAT THE--?! WHO THE HECK ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?!

YOU CAN CALL ME BOLT, AND YOU'D BETTER DO AS I SAY--CUZ THE REST OF THE X-MEN ARE GONNA BE HERE ANY SECOND NOW!

HE'S BLUFFING.
THE X-MEN?! AREN'T THEY THOSE MUTANT TERRORISTS THEY KEEP YAPPIN' ABOUT ON THE NEWS?
PTUI! THEY SURE ARE...!

NNNN. HEADACHE'S INCREASING...


YOU ROTTEN LITTLE PUNK! WE DON'T MUCH CARE FOR MUTIE FREAKS AROUND THESE PARTS...
...AND WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT GONNA PUT UP WITH YOUR KIND MUSCLIN' IN ON OUR TURF!
SHRUG IT OFF...GOTTA STAY FOCUSED... AND MAINTAIN CONTROL...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...!
EYAARGH!
FREAK-BOY'S SPAZZING OUT!
UUUURF--!
THWAKK
AWESOME. TAKE THAT, YOU CHUMP--!
FIST
FIST
FRZZT
HOW'D THE GENEJOKE KNOW OUR NAMES, ANYWAY?
HMM. GOOD POINT. THE RUNT MUST BE SOMEONE WE KNOW. MAYBE EVEN SOMEONE FROM SCHOOL...
I SAY WE WASTE 'IM--!
HEY, MAN--I AIN'T TAKIN' NO MURDER RAP!
WOULD YOU RELAX? SPEED'S JUST SHOOTIN' OFF AT THE MOUTH. WE AIN'T KILLIN' NOBODY.
NOT TONIGHT, ANYWAY...
HRUMPH. AREN'T WE AT LEAST GONNA ROUGH HIM UP A BIT AND TEACH HIM A LESSON?
YOU BET, BUT FIRST LET'S FIND OUT WHO HE IS...
FIST
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

Amazing Spider-Man #434-435
Tom DeFalco • Joe Bennett • Bud LaRosa

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SCORECARD

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FAVORITE MOVIE ACTRESS
- ☐ Alicia Silverstone
- ☐ Uma Thurman
- ☐ Christina Ricci
- ☐ Beverly D'Angelo

FAVORITE MOVIE
- ☐ Men in Black
- ☐ Liar Liar
- ☐ Titanic
- ☐ Batman & Robin

FAVORITE TEAM
- ☐ Chicago Bulls
- ☐ Green Bay Packers
- ☐ San Francisco 49ers
- ☐ Atlanta Braves

FAVORITE GROUP
- ☐ Spice Girls
- ☐ Backstreet Boys
- ☐ No Doubt
- ☐ Hanson

FAVORITE SINGER
- ☐ Puff Daddy
- ☐ Will Smith
- ☐ Mariah Carey
- ☐ Celine Dion

KEEP SCORE WHILE YOU WATCH!

NICKELODEON

11th Annual

Kids' Choice Awards

FAVORITE MOVIE ACTOR
- ☐ Jim Carrey
- ☐ Will Smith
- ☐ Tim Allen
- ☐ Robin Williams

FAVORITE SONG
- ☐ Men in Black
- ☐ I'll Be Missing You
- ☐ Don't Speak
- ☐ MMMBop

FAVORITE TV ACTRESS
- ☐ Brandy
- ☐ Tia & Tamera Mowry
- ☐ Melissa Joan Hart
- ☐ Kirstie Alley

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FAVORITE TV ACTOR
- ☐ Tim Allen
- ☐ Marlon & Shawn Wayans
- ☐ Kenan Thompson & Kel Mitchell
- ☐ Jonathan Taylor Thomas

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- ☐ Kenan & Kel
- ☐ Sister, Sister
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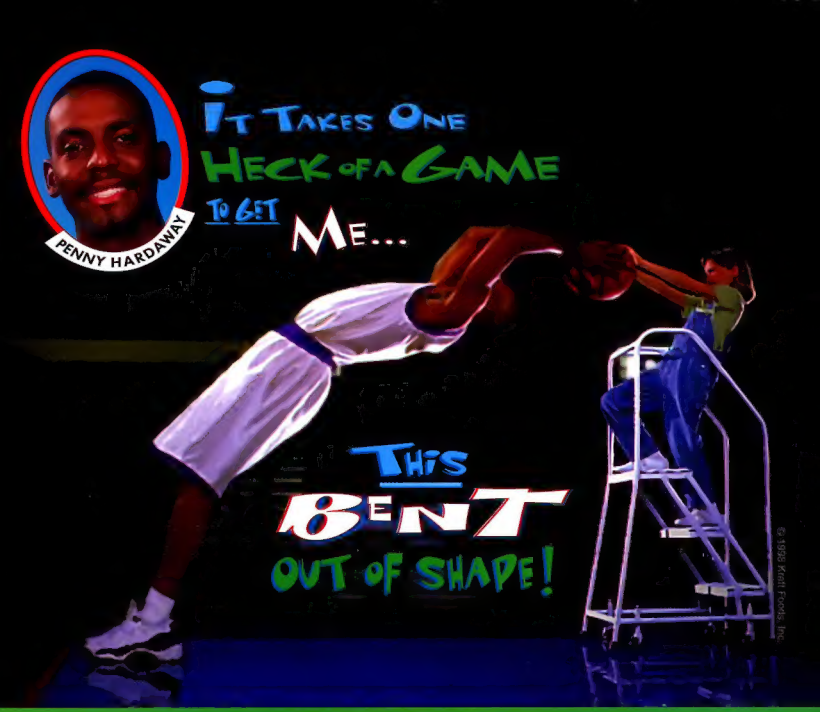

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